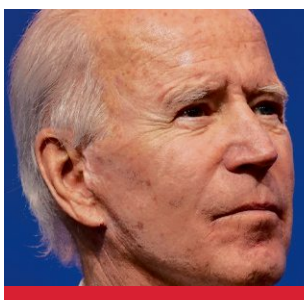

THE INAUGURATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.
NOON EASTERN

Today marks the start of the Biden/Harris administration. Subscribers have access to a bonus section highlighting plans for today and the weeks ahead under the 'Transfer of Power' tab at **kentucky.com/eedition**. And please see our website for the latest news from today.

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Biden to take oath of office with big plans and problems

BY BILL BARROW AND AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, DEL.

President-elect Joe Biden made a sober entrance to the nation's capital Tuesday, ready to assume power as America reels from the coronavirus pandemic, soaring unemployment and grave concerns about more violence as he prepares to take the oath of office.

Biden, an avid fan of Amtrak, had planned to take a train into Washington ahead of Wednesday's Inauguration Day, but scratched that plan in the aftermath of the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

He instead flew into a military airbase just outside the capital on Tuesday afternoon and then arrived by motorcade in fortress D.C. — a city that's been flooded by about 25,000 National Guard troops guarding a Capitol, White House and National Mall that are wrapped in a maze of barricades and tall fencing.

Shortly before Biden departed for Washington, the U.S. reached another grim milestone in the pandemic, surpassing 400,000 deaths from the virus, according to Johns Hopkins University.

"These are dark times," Biden told dozens of supporters in an emotional sendoff in Delaware before departing for Washington. "But there's always light."

SEE BIDEN, 2A

UK begins vaccinating thousands against COVID-19 at Kroger Field

RYAN C. HERMENS rhermens@herald-leader.com

People go through the COVID-19 vaccination process Tuesday at the University of Kentucky HealthCare vaccination center at Kroger Field. By Saturday night, UK had already received nearly 50,000 requests for appointments.

BY RICK CHILDRESS
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Beneath the Kroger Field stands, University of Kentucky volunteers and staff began vaccinating local residents against COVID-19 on Tuesday at the university's new, centralized vaccine distribution center.

Many of those who received the vaccine Tuesday praised the university's process as easy and efficient. The nearly paperless sign-up, invitation and actual vaccination process is efficient because UK mandates that those who arrive for a vaccine have a pre-scheduled appointment, officials said.

"Having that appointment

SEE UK PROCESS, 7A

COVID-19 vaccinations now available to people in group 1B at Baptist Health

BY ALEX ACQUISTO
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People eligible for COVID-19 vaccine in the priority group known as 1B can now sign up for a shot at certain Baptist Health hospital locations, including Lexington.

Baptist Health Lexington, Louisville, Corbin and Madisonville are currently accepting appointments and providing vaccine to anyone in priority groups 1A and 1B, hospital spokeswoman Ruth Ann Childers said over the weekend.

Group 1A includes health care personnel and long-term care staff and residents. 1B includes people age 70 and older, K-12 personnel and first responders. Vaccines are becoming available for this second-tier priority group largely on a county-by-county basis.

Appointments can be made at scheduleyourvaccine.com.

The expanded availability comes days after the University of Kentucky announced it would

SEE VACCINATIONS, 6A

Biden hopeful GOP leader will deal

BY DAVID CATANESE
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WASHINGTON

He credited him with bipartisan leadership that produced results. He said he trusted him implicitly as a man who doesn't waste time or break his word. And he even went as far to call him a "real friend," a rarity in modern day Washington.

This is how Mitch McConnell spoke of Joe Biden in December 2016 — a moment when many observers believed the then-vice president's government service had reached its sunset.

But Biden's power is about to hit its apex.

Now, as the resilient leader of the Republican caucus in a 50-50 U.S. Senate, McConnell's new relationship with the incoming Democratic president will arguably be the most significant in Washington. And aides and allies to Biden are guardedly hopeful that these two septuagenarian institutionalists have a better shot at a constructive pairing than the Kentuckian did with former President Barack Obama.

Democratic Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware, a close Biden ally who met with McConnell a few weeks ago to extend an olive branch on legislative initiatives, said McConnell's farewell tribute to Biden in 2016 provides him the most tangible case for optimism.

"I saw in his enthusiasm

SEE MCCONNELL, 2A

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